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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

HENRY A. WAXMAN
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

November 26, 2001

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20520-0229

Dear Secretary Powell,

I am writing to urge your immediate action to condemn dangerous anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement being promoted by Arab governments and state-sponsored media outlets across the Arab world. I applaud your dedication to this issue during your recent foreign policy address at the University of Louisville, and I request your attention to two disturbing examples of incitement that require a strong United States response.

First, on December 5, 2001, the United Nations will convene in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss alleged Israeli violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention in its treatment of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The proposed Declaration being circulated is staunchly biased against Israel, particularly with respect to the most sensitive issues regarding the status of Jerusalem and refugees, and calls for an unacceptable introduction of an international observer force. I fear that the meeting will inevitably become a new platform for Arab nations to resurrect the viciously anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist declarations put forth at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism.

I applaud the Administration's decision to boycott the December 5th meeting, and I urge that the United States point out to our "allies" in the United Nations that this meeting, which will be one-sided against Israel, will not be helpful to our efforts and in fact even pose a serious setback to the Middle East peace process.

Second, I ask that the United States forcefully condemn the virulent anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda openly promoted by Arab states. One new Arab television show brought to my attention by The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles is *Plots of Terrorism*, a primetime series which airs on state-sponsored Abu Dhabi Television. The show, which was created for broadcast during Ramadan throughout the Arab world, features a look-alike of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon who is depicted as a vampire that drinks the blood of Arabs. In one segment the late Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is portrayed as presenting the blood of twenty Arab children for Sharon to drink.

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It is outrageous and destructive for the United Arab Emirates to openly demonize the leaders of Israel. This kind of incitement, as you pointed out, only serves to legitimize terrorism against Israeli citizens. I urge you to protest this broadcast directly to the leadership of the UAE. It is simply a 21st century version of the "blood libels" that tormented Jewish communities of the Middle Ages and Czarist Russia.

The United States must be steadfast in its stand against incitement. I appreciate your attention to my concerns and I look forward to your response.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:zg